

**The Children's Services Outcome Measurement System (CSOMS)**  
**Annual Status Report**  
**October 1, 2009**

**Children's Services Outcomes Measurement System (CSOMS) Overview**

The Children's Services Outcomes Measurement System (CSOMS) was developed to evaluate the outcomes of services provided by residential child care programs that are state operated or state supported in accordance with Human Services Article § 8-1003.

The Children's Services Outcomes Measurement System (CSOMS) has been in operation since July 1, 2008. For more than 13 months, CSOMS has functioned as a live evaluation system, a positive outcomes evaluation tool for state agencies and providers, and has implemented a data collection process that is easy for the State Agencies, Local Lead Agencies, and service providers to utilize.

Through the use of the CSOMS, an evaluation of program performance can be determined. The CSOMS equips providers with the ability to enter individual specific data in order to evaluate the child's placement, living environment, family situation, educational and vocational development, and outcomes associated with learning positive behavioral habits. The CSOMS has the ability to develop reports at an individual, program, jurisdiction, and or agency level.

**CSOMS Current Implementation Status**

As indicated in the November 1, 2008 report approximately 1,500 cases had been entered into the system by that date. As of September 18, 2009, there are 5409 cases entered into the system. The cases entered into the CSOMS represent 97.96% from State Lead Referral Agencies (DHR 74.83%; CSA 0.02%; MHA 0.00%; DJS 20.91%; DDA 0.28%; and MSDE/LSS 1.91%), 0.15% from In-State Private pay, 0.32% from Out-of-State Private pay, and 1.58% from Out-of-State Agencies.

Effective July 1, 2009, Private Treatment Foster Care Providers (PTFCP) were required to participate in the CSOMS. The PTFCP were given a 90 day phase in schedule for entering data for all youth previously in placement. The Governor's Office for Children (GOC) conducted additional regional trainings and provided technical assistance prior to July 1<sup>st</sup>. As of September 18, 2009, approximately 59% of the PTFCP has complied with requirement GOC will continue to provide support to the agencies in an effort to assist the PTFCP's that have not yet entered data into the system.

**CSOMS Training & Technical Assistance**

The GOC staff has provided and will continue to provide training and ongoing technical assistance in an effort to ensure the system is properly and consistently utilized to meet the requirements of the Article.

In an effort to maintain the quality of the CSOMS data, the stakeholder's workgroup will continue to meet regularly to address ongoing issues and make recommendations for expansions, improvements, and updates to the system.